



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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This is Calpeek's 44th issue of 2000 – meaning it's our last newsletter of the year. We'll be on vacation for the next 3 weeks, but will return to work on or about Dec. 26th, preparing our Jan. 1, 2001 newsletter. Calpeek's January renewal notices will be mailed just after X-Mas. Here's wishing all our readers a very joyous holiday season and best wishes for the New Year...



CALPEEK's 2000 REVIEW: WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT.

Editor's note: We'll end 2000 the way we end each year, with one of your favorite columns – *Who's Hot & Who's Not*. There is nothing objective about this column. Now sit back and enjoy – or scream and weep...

- *The T-Rex of Calif. Politics* – CA Gov. Gray Davis. His fundraising exploits have netted him about \$23 million thus far for his '02 reelection bid and he comes off 2000 with big wins on NO on 38 & YES on 39. Is he looking beyond 2002???
- *Super Stars* – Demo U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein & Barbara Boxer; CA Senate PPT John Burton...
- *On the "A" List* – Outgoing CA Demo Party boss Art Torres. His years at the helm saw big gains in Calif...
- *A Short Term Star* – Demo Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg. Term limits should be abolished. Will he run statewide in 2002???
- *Best Bets for Stardom* – San Diego Mayor-elect Dick Murphy; new L.A. Co. DA Steve Cooley; Demo Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley; State Sen. Don Perata (D-Oakland)...
- *Waiting In the Wings* – S.F. Co. Sup. Gavin Newsom; L.A. Councilwoman Laura Chick; U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi;

CA Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante (D); and new U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R)...

- *The Phoenix Award* – To U.S. Rep.-elect Jane Harman (D-Torrance). "G.I. Jane" is back...
- *Surprised to be a Star* – U.S. Rep.-elect Susan Davis (D-San Diego). Her win over GOP Congressman Brian Bilbray has to be ranked as one of the bigger upsets...
- *A Fading Star* – L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan...
- *Stardom On Hold* – The 6 candidates who want to replace Riordan: Jim Hahn, Joel Wachs, Steve Soboroff, Kathleen Connell, Antonio Villaraigosa & Xavier Becerra...
- *No More Twinkle Twinkle* – Soon to be ex San Diego Mayor Susan Golding. Public funding of sports facilities did her in...
- *Going Nova* – The Calif. Republican Party. It's crunch time for the Grand Old Party in Calif...
- *Still Not Ready for Prime Time* – Soon to be ex CA Republican Party chair John McGraw...
- *Deregulated Stars* – co-authors of Calif. energy dereg law: State Senators Jim Brulte (R) & Steve Peace (D)...
- *Keep Your Eyes On* – Silicon Valley businessman & political activist Ron Unz; CA AG Bill Lockyer; CA Republican Party Vice Chair Shawn Steel...
- *Never Had It* – It's back to Stanford U for soon to be ex Congressman Tom Campbell (R)...
- *The Beavis & Butt-head Award* – To Prop. 38 sponsor Tim Draper. His discredited voucher initiative got only 30% of the vote and now he's thinking of taking his plan nationwide...
- *The Survivor* – GOP Assemblywoman Lynn Leach of

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Walnut Creek is the only GOP elected official left in the entire S.F. Bay area...

● *Thumbs Up* – NBC-TV's *The West Wing*. Stay tuned...

ANOTHER NASTY BATTLE ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR CONTROL OF THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Editor's note: For the second election cycle in a row, the CA Republican Party(CRP) saw its candidates get mashed, including its top of the ticket candidate, George W. Bush. The last time Calif. Republicans had a big winning cycle was 1994. Not good news for the CRP and like the *uncivil* war of early '99, moderate and mainstream CRP delegates are again blaming the November 2000 debacle on those now in charge, the conservatives under the leadership of CRP Chair John McGraw. Unlike 1999, however, there's much more at stake because of Prop. 34, Calif.'s new campaign reform law which gives political parties tons of financial clout in elections. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Why did the Calif. Republican Party take such a beating on Nov. 7th? Was it image (message) or was it tactics – or a little of both? Money wasn't a problem, thus some sources say it was the CRP's hardline anti-choice image which is at fault. But conservatives disagree, noting that most of the key losses were suffered by moderate, pro-choice GOP candidates. Very true...

...The two men who will be opposing one another for the chair of the CRP are current CRP Vice Chair Shawn Steel and former Assemblyman Brooks Firestone of Santa Barbara. The two will face off when CRP delegates gather at the Sacramento Hilton Hotel, Feb. 23-25. Steel, who came up through the political party ranks, is an attorney from Palos Verdes. Firestone is the founding general partner of Firestone Vineyard. He is the moderate and Steel the conservative. *However...*

...Those who know him best say that unlike the current CRP chair, John McGraw, Steel is *not* a litmus test guy – that he puts *winning first*, not his conservative ideology. But make no mistake, sources think Steel will pay a price for being linked with McGraw and McGraw's policies, which in some cases caused even more bitterness between moderates and conservatives – such as the CRP's financial help (\$10,000) to fund legal challenges against 3 moderate GOP assembly primary winners (because these moderates beat conservatives with the aid of non-GOP voters in Calif.'s then-legal Open Primary). The moderates won their cases, but it cost them a ton in legal fees...

...As for Firestone and the *Republican Majority Coalition*,

they enter this battle at a distinct disadvantage. The fact is the CRP is controlled by conservatives, many of whom also are members of the very conservative Calif. Republican Assembly(CRA). And while Firestone may be correct that in the past, with such leaders as McGraw and his predecessor, Mike Schroeder, the CRP was "run as an ideological fortress," given what sources say about Steel's political style, there's no evidence that he comes out of this same mold. In fact, in talking to several GOP sources one gets the impression Steel wasn't always in agreement with McGraw's management of the CRP. Stay tuned...

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CAMPAIGN 2000: CA RIGHT TO LIFE PAC AMBUSH.

Editor's note: As noted in the last issue of **Calpeek**, there were last minute write in campaigns funded by the Calif. Right to Life PAC against incumbent U.S. Rep. Steve Kuykendall(R-Palos Verdes) and GOP Assemblyman Jim Cunneen(San Jose) running for the open 15th CD. Both Kuykendall and Cunneen are pro-choice Republicans. To say that moderate Calif. GOPers are fuming is an understatement. Here's our update & analysis...

...It's doubtful that the write in campaign of Phil Kronzer against Cunneen in the 15th CD had any real impact because Cunneen was beaten by Demo Mike Honda by some 29,000 votes. But the write in campaign of Dr. Will Davies, MD, in the 36th CD may have cost Kuykendall reelection. The last count showed Demo Jane Harman ahead of Kuykendall by 4,452 votes. The L.A. Co. Registrar/Recorder won't have the final write in count for several days, but the real damage may not show up there. Instead, 36th CD GOP conservatives may have just not voted for Kuykendall – the same impact...

...What puts this ambush on **Calpeek's** pages is the fact that the mailer sent to GOP voters on behalf of Davies in the 36th CD contained the endorsement of Rod Guyton, who is the South Bay CA Republican Assembly unit president. What's more interesting is that Guyton was appointed to the Calif. Republican Party's Central Committee by none other than John McGraw, the current CRP chair and a past CRA leader, who is very outspoken in his anti-choice views. The fact that Guyton's name is on this hit piece is a violation of CRP by-laws (section 2.01.06 and section 2.01.07) as was pointed out to McGraw in a Nov. 16th letter from L.A. Co. Federation of Republican Women. The letter requests the removal of Guyton from the CRP's Central Committee and described

Guyton's actions as "treachery." So McGraw is really on the spot...

...FYI: The CA Right to Life PAC ambush also included a hit against GOP assembly candidate Sue Jackson in the open 24th AD in Santa Clara Co. Jackson, like Cunneen, is a pro-choice Republican. Her GOP/anti-choice write in opponent was George Swenson. Jackson was defeated by Demo Rebecca Cohn by some 8,000 votes. Stay tuned...

BRINGING CALIF.'S ELECTION SYSTEM UP TO SPEED

Editor's note: Given all the election problems in Florida, is Calif.'s election system all that it should be? Here's our brief update & analysis...

...According to CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R), Calif.'s election system is functioning very smoothly, but can be improved. Jones outlined a 10-point program to do just that, but don't look for the Jones program to make it into law. The credit for moving Calif. into the 21st Century in terms of new technologies and election improvements will go to Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg and State Sen. Steve Peace, both Demos who are working on a \$300 million package. The Jones package is about \$230 million...

...Best bet is that most of the money (in either package) would be spent on new touch-screen computers, used during this last cycle in 8 difference counties, including Riverside. The vast majority of Californians cast votes through the use of a punch-card ballot, which is fed into a computer for counting. And in Calif. only partially detached chads are counted, not dimples. Even if Calif. were to switch to the new touch-screen system, punch cards would still have to be used for absentee voting, thus hanging chads will still be a problem, especially as more voters prefer to cast ballots in the privacy of their homes...

...If you're beginning to see a pattern emerge that points to problems with absentee ballots, you're right. One of Jones' key points is to restrict the role of campaigns in collecting completed AV applications. The AV ballot application is now a key campaign tool. If a campaign receives an AV application, that campaign has 24-hours to turn it over to the registrar's office or face a fine. Jones wants all completed AV applications go directly to the registrars, with no campaign middleman. The only glaring example of when this 24-hour rule was violated was in the '98 primary campaign of Al Checchi. Odds of Jones getting this approved are slim, according to our sources. Jones also wants voters notified if their AV ballots were not counted. The 58 county registrars will undoubtedly be opposed. If this provision had been in place in Florida's Miami/Dade Co., you'd have had 10,700 outraged absentee voters...

...Another reform being sought by Jones is showing ID at the polls. This won't fly with the Demos. It's an old idea and there's no evidence of massive fraud and only handful of convictions in the past decade. One reform that Demos want is a postage free return envelope for all AV ballots. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CALPEEK'S ELECTION ANALYSIS.

Editor's note: Here is Part III of Calpeek's *Campaign 2000* election analysis...

☒ *Bush Vs. Gore(National Overview)* – No change since our last update: all eyes are still focused on the Florida situation. Texas Gov. George W. Bush(R) leads Demo VP Al Gore by some 537 votes statewide, but everything is very fluid – especially with all the legal maneuvering. And then there's the touchy situation in Seminole Co., with 15,000 absentee ballots. A lawsuit seeks to toss all these ballots out which would cost Bush about 10,000 votes. The irony is that in September Florida's 25 electoral college votes were considered very safe for Bush...

...Why is Gore fighting so hard to win Florida? Several reasons: 1) the Demo base expects Gore to follow Bill Clinton's example and "go for the throat." Can't be a wimp like Michael Dukakis. 2) In the Demo Party you get one shot as the nominee (there are some exceptions). 3) Gore clearly won the nationwide popular vote and got the most votes of any candidate in U.S. history. That gives him moral legitimacy to continue the fight in Florida...

...Bottomline: despite all of the above, time is working in Bush's favor. Dec. 12th is the deadline for Florida to select its electoral college delegates. The worst case scenario for the GOP: Gore emerges as the Florida winner after the court actions, but the GOP controlled Florida Legislature appoints electors pledged to Bush, thus throwing the hot potato into the laps of the U.S. Congress. That would force marginal GOP congressmembers into a meat grinder. There are 20-30 GOP House members who come from CDs which went for Gore. *New slogans for Florida: If you don't like the way we count then take I-95 and visit one of the other 56 states and/or Relax, Retire, Revote or Recount...*

☒ *Bush Vs. Gore(Calif. Overview)* – Voter turnout in Calif. is now around 70.1%. As Calpeek hit deadline, there were still some counties which had not completed their work. In Calif., Gore leads Bush by 1,296,622...

☒ *U.S. Senate* – Former Demo Congresswoman Maria Cantwell appears to have defeated incumbent U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton(R-Washington State) by some 1,953 votes.

There is an automatic recount, but odds are Cantwell will hold on, thus giving the Demos 50 members (if Joe Lieberman remains). Big winners: Senate Demo Leader Tom Daschle and Senate Demo Campaign Cmt. Chair Robert Torricelli of NJ. Big loser: Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott(R)...

☒ **U.S. House** – In Calif., U.S. Rep. Steve Horn(R-Long Beach) is the winner over Demo Gerri Schipske in the 38th CD. Horn's margin: 1,768 votes. In the 36th CD, U.S. Rep. Steve Kuykendall(R) finally conceded defeat. Demo Jane Harman beat Kuykendall by some 4,452 votes. The U.S. House now stands at 221(R) vs. 212(D), with 2 independents...

☒ **5th Senate District** – The very close battle between Demo Assemblyman Mike Machado and Lodi Councilman Alan Nakanishi(R) is over, with Machado a narrow 973-vote winner. There are still a few thousand AVs and provisionals in San Joaquin Co., but the outcome won't change. Thus the CA State Senate lineup will be 26(D) vs. 14(R), a net pickup of 1 for the Demos. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Energy Reregulation Initiative** – Harvey Rosenfield, president of the Santa Monica-based *Foundation for Taxpayer & Consumer Rights*, has announced that his organization may launch an initiative to reregulate Calif.'s energy industry. The initiative isn't in its final form, but key elements would include reregulation of electric rates; a windfall profits tax aimed at energy suppliers; and it would put the State of Calif. into the energy producing business. Expensive, but it may be the only solution which will work. As Calpeek has noted before, the 1996 dereg law was supposed to deregulate Calif.'s energy industry without any "pain" to consumers. It hasn't worked out that way, as electric rates went through the roof in San Diego and northern Orange Co. The reason for the high rates is due to a supply & demand situation, spurred by Calif.'s robust economy, especially the high tech industry which eats up huge amounts of energy. And at the same time there is a drastic need for more power plants. Rosenfield wants to see if Gov. Davis and the CA Legislature come up with a plan to fix the situation and said if they didn't he'd push his initiative...

■ **San Jose May Reject Power Plant** – Right in the heart of the Silicon Valley, Mayor Ron Gonzales and 5 councilmembers have announced their opposition to Calpine Corp.'s proposal to build a new power plant in San Jose (known as

the Coyote Valley power plant). Although it is a setback for Calpine Corp., the energy company will take its case for this 600-megawatt plant to the State Energy Commission. A vote from the CA Energy Comm. on this project could come in the Spring of 2001...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Dec. 4	2001-2002 CA Legislature convenes for organizational session.
Dec. 5	VICA's 51 st annual meeting/luncheon featuring Leon Panetta. Hilton Universal Hotel, Universal City.
Dec. 5-9	Nat'l League of Cities conference, Boston.
Dec. 8-9	NALEO Calif. Policy Institute on Health, Pleasant Hills, CA.
Dec. 12	S.F. muni runoff election.
Dec. 18	Electoral College delegates meet in Sacto.
Jan. 20	Inauguration Day, Washington DC.

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Louis Warschaw, 83, died Nov. 17 after a battle with prostate cancer. He was a prominent L.A. business leader, Demo Party insider and an arts patron. R.I.P...

● Gov. Davis has appointed three new members to the Calif. Transportation Commission: John R. Lawson of Fresno; Dianne McKenna of Sunnyvale; and R.K. Lindsey of Modesto...



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